GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6534
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2005
POPULATION OF INDIAN CRANES
Jagannath Dr. M.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any census to ascertain the population of Indian cranes was conducted in 1983;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present population of the Indian cranes;

(d) the reasons for depletion of Indian cranes; and

(e) the steps taken to protect the same?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) A limited census and population estimation of Sarus Crane, Common Crane and Demosille Crane was reported to have been conducted in the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan in 1983. The estimated population was around 1,50,000 - 2,00,000.

(c) As per the reports available for the census conducted between 1999-2002 the population of various Cranes are as below -

S.No.	Crane	No.
1	Sarus Crane	8000 - 10000
2	Common Crane	1,50,000
3	Black Necked Crane	70

(d) The main reasons of the depletion of Indian Crane are as follows -

i. Depletion and degradation of wetlands that are found to be good crane habitat.
ii. Changes in land use and agricultural cropping pattern which do not favour crane population.
iii. Excessive use of insecticide, pesticide in the agricultural landscape.
iv. Feral dogs and other predator destroying crane eggs and chicks.
v. Stealing of crane eggs and poaching of crane juveniles by errant village community.
vi. Electrocution of cranes in high-tension and supply electricity power line.

(e) The steps taken to protect the same are as follows -

i. Indian Crane species are protected under various schedules of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
ii. Important wetland sites with crane population have been declared as RAMSAR sites, National Parks, Sanctuaries or Wetlands of National importance.